

**From:** John Raithel  
**To:** Microsoft ATR  
**Date:** 12/9/01 6:59pm  
**Subject:** Microsoft Settlement

To whom it may concern (and it should deeply concern us all),

I am writing to attempt to express my astonishment and disgust with the proposed "settlement" of the Microsoft monopoly case. I have been an active professional in the computer industry for 21 years, and my experience has included everything from large-scale systems to customized chip solutions, and from software from the giants to software from the open-source programmer.

I'm sorry, but Microsoft must be broken up. I have seen more than one company abandon products -- excellent products, products already in beta and near release date that have been enthusiastically reviewed by industry journals -- I have seen, I say, these companies simply drop their product at the announced entry of Microsoft (MS) into the field. Even though MS at the time had no competing product as yet, and in at least one case it never did develop the "product".

The bottom line cannot be: "Will the economy take a hit if we break-up MS?" It may, it may not, but in the long run the economy necessarily reaps the benefits of open markets, energetic competition, and all those things that restrictions on monopolistic presences have on the market.

MS must compete. It does not now. Any "solution" that does not take this into account and correct it will simply have to be revisited every few years, at immense cost, until the correction is made.

Thank-you for your kind attention to this.

- John

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